

Assiniboine Park Zoo to Re-open Saturday – Capacity will be Limited and all Indoor Exhibits Will Remain Closed –

For immediate release: Winnipeg, January 28, 2021 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is pleased to announce that the Assiniboine Park Zoo will re-open to the public on Saturday, January 30. Zoo members are invited to enjoy a members-only preview on Friday, January 29. The Zoo received approval to open from Manitoba Public Health with the requirement that capacity must be limited and all indoor exhibits must remain closed.

"As a large outdoor attraction with over 80 acres, we are pleased to be in a position to re-open and are looking forward to safely welcoming visitors back to the Zoo," said Bruce Keats, Chief Operations Officer, Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

The Zoo closed last March and again in mid-November to help reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19. To thank visitors for their patience and support during the closure, general Zoo admission will be temporarily reduced by 25% until the end of February.

Guests are asked to purchase tickets online in advance to facilitate quick, contactless entry and reduce interaction with staff. Enter promotional code **WELCOME2021** at check-out to save 25% on admission. Tickets purchased online are not date-specific and valid for use within 90 days of date of purchase. On-site options are available for those who are unable to purchase tickets online.

Important information to help guests plan their visit:

- The Zoo will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
- All indoor exhibits will remain closed. Dress appropriately for the weather.
- Masks are mandatory in all indoor spaces, including the Zoo entrance, gift shop, and washrooms.
- Take-out food and beverage service will be available at the Tundra Grill restaurant and Winston's concession.
- Wild Things Unique Gifts will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with capacity restricted to 25%. Guests can also save 25% on gift shop purchases until February 28 (some restrictions apply).

Before visiting the Zoo, guests are encouraged to pre-screen using the Province's <u>online screening tool</u>. Do not visit the Zoo if you are feeling unwell (even with mild symptoms) or are required to self-isolate for any reason under current public health orders.

When visiting the Zoo, visitors are reminded to follow public health orders and advice:

- Wear a mask Masks are mandatory in all indoor spaces. Masks are encouraged outdoors, especially when physical distancing is more challenging or unpredictable, and during brief exchanges with other visitors, staff and volunteers.
- Keep your distance Physical distancing is mandatory. Please maintain a distance of at least two meters (six feet) from other visitors, staff and volunteers. Physical distancing also applies to animals. Please respect all habitat barriers and barricades.
- Avoid gathering with others We encourage you to visit the Zoo with members of your household and avoid gathering with others. Groups of more than five people cannot gather unless they are members of the same household.

"The health and safety of our animals, staff, volunteers and guests remains our highest priority. We are doing our part to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19 and are asking our guests to support us in that effort when visiting the Zoo," added Keats.

Adjustments to Zoo operations will be made as permitted and required in response to evolving public health orders and guidelines. Guests are encouraged to visit our <u>website</u> to find the most up to date information before visiting the Zoo.

For information and interview requests, please contact: Laura Cabak, Manager, Communications & Public Relations E: <u>lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca</u> C: 204-795-0091